

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7768

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TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF ELECTION RESULTS

1. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY STATISTICAL CALCULATIONS BASED ON PRESS ELECTION FIGURES REVEAL A TURNOUT OF 87.2 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS. THE UNP RECEIVED 51 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE AND THE SLFP 30 PERCENT. THE VARIOUS LEFT GROUPS DIVIDED A MEAGER 7 - 8 PERCENT WITH THE BALANCE GOING TO THE TAMILS AND THE INDEPENDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIGURES AVAILABLE IN THE PRESS AND EMBASSY CALCULATIONS SHOW SOME INTERESTING BREAKDOWNS IN THE VOTE IN THE UNITED NATIONAL PARTY LANDSLIDE OF JULY 21. PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING FIGURE IS THE ESTIMATED TURNOUT OF 87.2 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS. THE PERCENTAGE TURNOUT HAS INCREASED IN EACH ELECTION AND REACHED PREVIOUS PEAKS OF 82 PERCENT AND 85 PERCENT IN 1965 AND 1970. THE FIGURES ARE EVEN MORE IMPOSITIVE IN LIGHT OF STRICT ELECTION LAWS WHICH FORBID THE USE OF PRIVATE CARS FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE POLLING PLACES.

3. THE UNP RECEIVED 51 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE CAST AND THE SLFP 29.9 PERCENT. THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE UNP'S 37.9 PER-

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CENT AND THE SLFP'S 36.6 PERCENT IN 1970 (WHEN THE SLFP WAS IN AN ELECTION ALLIANCE WITH TWO LEFT PARTIES AND DI NOT, CONSEQUENTLY, CONTEST ALL ELECTORATES.) THE TOTAL DEFEAT OF THE LEFT THIS YEAR IS QUITE CLEAR, NOT ONLY FROM THE DEFEAT OF ALL THEIR CANDIDATES BUT FROM THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO LOST THEIR ELECTION DEPOSITS (BY WINNING LESS THAN ONE-EIGHT OF THE VOTE). OF THE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY'S 82 CANDIDATES,

WE ESTIMATE 70 LOST THEIR DEPOSITS. OF THE 25 COMMUNIST PARTY CANDIDATES, 22 LOST THEIR DEPOSITS. THE TOTAL LEFT VOTE (LSSP, CP, MAHAJANA EKSATH PERAMUNA, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND A FEW IDENTIFIABLY LEFT INDEPENDENTS) WAS AROUND 7 - 8 PER-CENT OF THE TOTAL.

4. THE AVERAGE VOTE PER CONSTITUENCY WAS 36,287. THUS THE SIZE OF THE VICTORY MARGINS WAS SURPRISING. IN THE SINGLE-MEMBER ELECTORATES WHICH IT WON, THE UNP ROLLED UP AVERAGE MARGINES OVER THE NEXT CANDIDATE OF 6,922. THE TAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT, RUNNING USUALLY AGAINST NO MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATES, HAD AN AVERAGE MAJORITY OF 12,623 PER CONSTITUENCY. THERE WERE VERY FEW CONTESTS WHERE THE VICTORY MARGINS WERE LESS THAN 2,000.

5. SUBJECT TO MINOR CORRECTION WHEN OFFICIAL FIGURES ARE ANNOUNCED, HERE ARE OUR CALCULATIONS OF PARTY VOTE TOTALS:

TOTAL 5,769,706

TOTAL REGISTERED 6,617,894 (1)

PERCENTAGE TURNOUT 87.2 PERCENT

1977 1977 VOTE 1970 VOTE

SEATS WON PERCENTAGE PERCENTAGE

UNP VOTE 2,941,815 (2) 139 50.99 37.92

SLFP VOTE 1,725,105 8 29.90 36.63

TULF VOTE 372,958 17 6.46 7.29 (3)

CWC VOTE 20,902 1 .36 N.A.

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LSSP VOTE 225,975 0 3.92 8.75

CP VOTE 106,790 0 1.85 3.42

MEP VOTE 22,072 0 .38 .94

OTHER LEFT

VOTE (4) 69,182 0 1.20 N.A.

OTHER

INDEPENDENTS 284,907 1 4.94 5.04

(1) THIS FIGURE EXCLUDES THE TWO-SEAT POTTUVIL ELECTORATE, WHERE THE ELECTION WAS POSTPONED.

(2) ALL VOTE TOTALS IN MULTI-MEMBER ELECTORATES HAVE BEEN CORRESPONDINGLY DIVIDED, I.E. IN A TRIPLE-MEMBER ELECTORATE, ONE VOTER CASTS THREE VOTES.

(3) THIS IS TOTAL OF FEDERAL PARTY AND TAMIL CONGRESS.

(4) THIS IS UNDERSTATED SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY ALL LEFT CANDIDATES WHO RAN AS INDEPENDENTS.

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